

SECRET

AIR

ODCW-3924

21-5-86/3

14 Feb 57

Chief, WE

INFO

☐ OPERATIONS

Proposed ☐ Operation

REFERENCE ODCW-5324, 1 February 1957

ACTION REQUIRED For your and the MEMOS' information and comment

1. The EUCLAM Press Review of 6 February 1957 stated that the Wallenberg affair has removed every other topic from the editorial pages of the Swedish press. The following excerpts from Swedish newspapers were cited as examples of the editorial reactions to the Soviets' announcement of Wallenberg's death:

"According to the liberal 'Dagens Nyheter,' it was to the interest of the Soviet leaders to wash their hands of the matter. And from their points of view, of course, their version of what happened is the best possible. 'Dagens Nyheter' continues: 'At the same time the statement from Moscow shed a terrible light on the Soviet regime itself, a factor of which the Russians seem to be entirely unaware. They did not grasp the likelihood that other people will inevitably conclude that Russian declarations are not to be relied upon. A year ago we were given brusquely worded statements that the Russians had no knowledge of Wallenberg's whereabouts. Now, the same authorities declare that he has been dead for 10 years and that his fate was in the hands of liars and traitors. What will we hear the next time? That the men who now rule the Soviet Union are also liars and traitors?'

"The leading Conservative paper, 'Svenska Dagbladet,' does not find the Soviet communique satisfactory either, but concludes that Wallenberg is no longer alive. 'Svenska Dagbladet' goes on to say: 'As pointed out by the Swedish Foreign Office, the Soviet note is meagerly worded and cannot be regarded as final. However, it is far better to know this much than be tormented by uncertainty, and the

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fact that the Russians assume responsibility for Wallenberg. Their written regret is a welcome improvement on their previous attitude which caused so much sorrow and anxiety in Sweden. It is opinion in this country, however, is not going to forget what has happened.

"According to the trade union newspaper, 'Stockholm-Tidningen,' the Russians worded their note in such a way that they can always say later that they had picked the wrong man. On the other hand, all that we know of Soviet methods and conditions up to now would seem to confirm the accuracy of the Russian version.

"Stockholm-Tidningen' writes: 'Irrespective of how the delayed Russian reply is judged, we can hardly write off the matter as closed. We are entitled to demand better and more detailed information on why Wallenberg was arrested, of what he was accused, and what happened to him during his imprisonment. We say assume that the Swedish government will be receptive to all new evidence that may help to clarify this matter, not least because of the (unreserved) wording of the Russian communique.'

"We do not know what to believe, writes the Liberal paper, 'Handels-Tidningen,' which continues: 'The Russians have not told us everything. It would be just as well to have them give us the rest of the story. Whichever individuals were responsible for Wallenberg's imprisonment and death, in the eyes of the world the Soviet government is responsible for them all. Are we to believe that the present leaders who like to impress the world with their authority were overruled by some minor authorities within arms length?'

2. It occurred to headquarters that the current feelings over the Wallenberg case might present an opportune time to exploit the disappearance of Arne Munch-Petersen. The above listed reactions of the Swedish press should give some indication on how the Swedes might react to a reopening of Munch-Petersen's disappearance. We realize that it has been twenty years since Munch-Petersen disappeared in the Soviet Union and that he is probably just about forgotten by the Danish people, but AJ's reference to him in referenced dispatch indicates that his disappearance is still in the minds of some people. We suggest that you discuss this with the MEMOS. Perhaps they can offer some additional background information which will determine the practicability of such an idea.

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